

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01000 100742 Z

13

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

NIC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 EB-11 RSR-01 /107 W
----- 018800

R 100700 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5652
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF CZECH FOREIGN MINISTER, WHILE INDICATING RETURN TO NORMALCY OF YUGOSLAV-CZECH RELATIONS WAS CAREFULLY PLACED BY HOSTS IN FRAMEWORK WHICH DID NOT GIVE POST FACTO APPROVAL TO EVENTS OF AUGUST 1968 AND PROVIDED REITERATION OF ANTI-BREZHNEV DOCTRINE LANGUAGE. MINI-FLAP OVER A CZECH NEWS-PAPER REFERENCE TO MACEDONIAN HEROES AS "BULGARIANS" PROVIDED SOUR FINAL NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. CZECH FOMIN CHNOUPEK CONCLUDED 4- DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA MARCH 8 BY MEETING WITH TITO IN ZAGREB.

3. EVEN BEFORE CHNOUPEK'S ARRIVAL AS OFFICIAL GUEST OF YUGOSLAV FONSEC MINIC, BELGRADE PRESS, NOTING THAT VISIT IS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1968, TOOK PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT YUGOSLAV CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHSLOVAKIA

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 01000 100742 Z

IN 1968 REMAINS UNCHANGED. OBJECTIVELY, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO TANJUG, VISIT MEANS " THE LEAVING BEHIND OF A SITUATION WHICH IS NO LONGER IN THE INTEREST OF EITHER OF THE TWO COUNTRIES OR OF THEIR PEOPLES, AND IT IS HOPED IT WILL OPEN A NEW CHAPTER OF BETTER MUTUAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION".

4. AT A WELCOMING DINNER HOSTED BY MINIC MARCH 5, MINIC INCLUDED AS PART OF OFFICIAL TOAST SOME LANGUAGE USUALLY APPLIED TO YUGOSLAV- SOVIET RELATIONS, I. E. THAT RELATIONS SHOULD DEVELOP ON BASIS OF THE " UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, EQUALITY, NON- INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND MUTUAL RESPECT WHICH GUIDE SOCIALIST NONALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA'S RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS WITH, AS IS UNDERSTOOD, THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA".

5. IN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO BREZHNEV DOCTRINE, MINIC WENT ON TO SAY THAT " THE CONDITIONS HAVE NOW BEEN CREATED IN WHICH THE DIFFERENCES STEMMING FROM THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE ROAD TO AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT AND DIFFERING INTERNATIONAL POSITION OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BRING INTO QUESTION THE ABOVE- MENTIONED BASIS OF MUTUAL RELATIONS OR THE DEVELOPMENT AND ALL- ROUND STRENGTHENING OF MUTUAL COOPERATION EITHER".

6. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 8, CHNOUPEK ASSERTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAKIA RESPECTS THE DISTINCTIVE ROAD THAT EVERY COUNTRY HAS CHOSEN FOR SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT. HE THEN MENTIONED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF A TITO- HUSAK MEETING.

7. OTHERWISE SEEMINGLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT ENDED ON SOUR NOTE WHEN BELGRADE DAILY BORBA EXPRESSED GOY IRRITATION OVER RECENT ARTICLE PRINTED IN RUDE PRAVO FROM ITS CORRESPONDENT IN SOFIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 95 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF SAN STEFANO. THE ILL- TIMED ARTICLE, FOLLOWING BULGARIAN VIEW, PROVOKED BORBA BY " INCLUDING THE MILADINOV BROTHERS, WELL- KNOWN MACEDONIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS AMONG BULGARIAN PATRIOTS". AN OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED CHNOUPEK, IN REPLY TO PRESS QUESTION, SAID HE HAD " NOTHING TO ADD" TO BORBA COMMENTARY. ACCORDING TO BORBA, THE CZECHS HAVE GIVEN THE YUGOSLAVS ASSURANCES THAT THE RUDE PRAVO DISPATCH FROM SOFIA DOES NOT REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE GOC, AND THAT CHNOUPEK HAD EXPRESSED REGRET THAT IT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED.

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 01000 100742 Z

8. COMMENT: DESPITE LAST MINUTE FLAP OVER " BULGARIAN" PATRIOTS,
YUGOSLAVS CLEARLY ARE PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF VISIT. MINIC'S
INCLUSION OF INDEPENDENCE- NONINTERFERENCE FORMULA USUALLY
RESERVED ONLY FOR SOVIETS AMONG SOCIALIST WORLD, HOWEVER, INDICATES
IMPROVING CZECH- YUGOSLAV RELATIONS REMAIN ON DIFFERENT AND LOWER
PLANE THAN THOSE WITH NEIGHBORS, ROMANIA AND HUNGARY.

TOON

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